The Womans Advocate:

Shewing the Reaſon

According to Scripture,

OR THE

Scripture Reaſon;

Why God hath brought to Light the true meaning of his Word, by an unexpected hand.

SEeing by that body of Men, which in the Word is termed the Beaſt, who under pretence of being Teachers of the Goſpel, deprive the Nations of the Scriptures, whom God permitted ſo to do; when the greater party, with their Rulers grew to have no love to the Truth, but took pleaſure in unrighteouſneſs; then God ſuffered them to be deluded by the Beaſt, and ſo Idolatry and Darkneſs overſpread the Nations again: By means of which, we are now in great miſtakes, having loſt in ſeveral places the right Sentiments of the Word: And therefore if God hath at the end of the time determined, that the whole truth ſhould break forth another way, I hope none will be offended: And becauſe Woman was the firſt in the Tranſgreſſion, therefore all the time of this World, God hath more afflicted them than Man. But the

Lord Christ, to restore fallen Mankind, came of a Woman; and to shew they were alike beloved of the Lord, therefore his first coming was revealed to the Women, as well as to the Men. And also when he arose from the Dead, he then first appeared to the Women. But, because Woman was first in the Transgression, therefore in the time of this World, Man was given the Ruling Power, and it is he that hath been the first setter up of all the Idolatrous Worship in the World.

And after the Primitive times, the Beast and false Prophet have been the Suppressors of the Knowledge of the Truth. And the Mighty God, foreseing what the event would be, Therefore by *Zerubbabel* the Favourite of Heaven, the Lord saith, *Who art thou, O great Mountain before* Zerubbabel? *The hands of* Zerubbabel *have laid the foundation of this house, his hands shall also finish it.* Zech. 4. 7, 9. This was the great *Zerubbabel* that laid the Writing under *Darius* his Pillow; wherein he joyns Women and Truth together, as Prophetically foreseeing, that as Christ, who was Truth it self, should come of Woman; so again, when Man had darkned Truth by Errour, that God would again have Truth break forth by Woman, at Christs Second coming, and those places of Scripture which we have been mistaken in, to be fully and clearly explained by the Word, and that by Woman: And tho' Women, and all are said to be wicked, *Yet great is Truth; and great is the God of Truth*, 1 *Esd.* 3. 8, 12. And Christ saith of himself, *I am the Way, the Truth, and the Life.* The Lord giveth himself that Name of Truth. And several places of Scripture that we have apprehended to have little meaning in them, yet will prove to be of wonderful Signification. Now as *Zerubbabel* is said to lay the Foundation of the Temple, so his hand is said to finish it. And Christ terms his Body a Temple, and the Temple of the Body of Christ, came of a Woman, and if the Lord will have the coming of the Temple, of his Glo-

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rious Body fully declared by Woman, it is what God thinks meet; who is no reſpecter of Perſons, or Sex: For of them that are in the Lord. *There is neither bond nor free, male nor female; for they are all one in Chriſt Jeſus*, Gal. 3. 28. And the Lords Second coming has been again declared, for theſe ſeveral Years ſince the Reformation, as by *Luther*, *Uſher*, and *Withers*. And the Lord will not come the Second time, till his coming has been clearly made appear, and that by Woman.

I do not think that thoſe Women that firſt ſaw the Lord after he aroſe, were better beloved of him, then the beloved Diſciple *John*, or *Peter*: But that the Lord did thereby fore-ſhew, that the clear Declaration of his Second coming ſhould be fully declared by Woman alſo. And I hope, that as Man is willing to be ſaved by the Lord of Life that came of a Woman, that they will not rather chuſe to go hood-winkt to Deſtruction, then to be warned by a Woman to eſcape the near Appproaching danger by a a ſpeedy Reformation and Preparation, for the coming of the Lord.

But to be awakened out of a ſleepy Security, ſeems no way pleaſing to the Fleſh; but let ſuch conſider, it is better to ſee the danger before hand, that they may avoid it, then to fall blind-fold into it. With the true Saint, there can be nothing ſo deſirable as the coming of the Lord and the knowledge thereof; whoſe coming I long for: And my Souls deſire alſo is, my fellow Creatures Eternal welfare: For which I have Laboured night and day. But I was willing to keep it from being known, by whom God had brought to Light the true meaning of his Word; therefore I endeavoured to place my words, when askt about the Books; ſo as it might not be apprehended that it was a Woman that wrote them. But the Lord bringing theſe fore-mentioned places of Scripture to my remembrance, as I was one Evening in Meditation; which before I had not taken notice of,

as to apprehend their meaning: By which I thought that it was the will of God, that I ſhould own the Work that he had imployed me in, that thro my weakneſs his Power might be exalted.

But as the Lords Firſt coming was a ſnare to *Iſrael*, in that he came of her that was but of ſmall appearance in this World; ſo the Truth now breaking forth, and not by the great Schollars and Rabbies of the time, it will prove a ſnare to many; eſpecially to the high and lofty in their own imaginations. But God chuſeth not the Wiſe and Learned of this World to diſcover the Secrets in his Word, becauſe man ſhould not attribute to his own Wiſdome or Learning. *Therefore God chuſeth the weak things of the World to confound the wiſe and mighty*, 1 Cor. 1. 27. Iſa. 29. 11, 12, 13. Now the Beaſt deprived the Nations of the Goſpel, and would not permit any woman ſo much as to Read the Word: For which, when man acts contrary to God, then God acts contrary to man. And in that, I that am but a weak Worm, do underſtand the Miſterious part of the Scriptures, and have brought to Light the true meaning of thoſe miſtaken places, which has cauſed ſo much Diſſention amongſt us; by means of which, we have been in great miſtakes as to ſeveral places of Scripture, which have ſeemed contradictory one to the other, becauſe we did not underſtand the true meaning of them. And therefore ſome have ſaid, God hath a Secret and a revealed Will: And that by his revealed Will, he invites all that will, to come, promiſing them Life; but by his Secret Will he hath determined, that none but the Elect ſhall be ſaved. The which is no other, then the turning the Truth of God into a lie; in his offering that Mercy, which he never did intend to perform. But now, all thoſe miſtaken places of Scripture are clearly proved by the Word, to have another meaning then what we have hitherto apprehended: So as all the Scripture now by Gods aſſiſtance, is made to agree in

a Holy harmony; and Juſtice, Mercy, and Truth, go hand in hand together. Therefore it is evident this muſt be done by the Aſſiſtance of God, and in the time, and in the way he hath appointed in his Word. And as the *Jews* were miſtaken as to Chriſt's firſt coming, ſo the *Chriſtians* are as much miſtaken as to his ſecond coming: But I hope our Rulers will not oppoſe the Truth as theirs did. But the people, as they, love to have ſmooth things told them, and love not them that tell them the truth, altho' they are willing to ſpend, and be ſpent for them.

Some there are that find fault with my quoting of *Eſdras* in my Books, ſaying, that he was not mentioned either by Chriſt, or his Apoſtles. To which I anſwer, Neither were ſeveral other of the Prophets that are ſpoken of in the *Old Teſtament*. But if any ſay, he is not mentioned there, they aſſert that which is falſe. For *Ezra* in the *Old Teſtament*, is the ſame perſon, which in the *Apochrapha* is called *Eſdras*. For in *Ezra* Chap. 10. the 9, 16, 17. Verſes, is exactly the ſame with that in the 1 Book of *Eſdras*, Chap. 9. 5, 6, 17. Verſes. And alſo in *Nehemiah*, Chap. 8. 2, 4. Verſes. the like is again ſaid in 1 *Eſdras* 9. 40, 42. Verſes. By which places it is fully made appear, that it was one and the ſame Man, who after the Captivity cauſed *Iſrael* to put away their ſtrange Wives, being met together at *Jeruſalem* on the Twentieth day of the Ninth Month, in the great ſhowre of Rain; and likewiſe ſtood upon a Pulpit of Wood, and Read the Law on the Firſt day of the Seventh Month to all the People. As to the difference of the Name, one was taken out of the *Hebrew*, the other out of the *Caldean* Tongue: and the Prophets are not called in the *New Teſtament*, as they are in the *Old*.

But as for our Ancient Expoſitors, who placed not his Propheſies among the Prophets, it was, becauſe themſelves

selves erred from the Truth. Not only as to their misapprehending that none but the Elect could be saved, but they likewise understood not the meaning of the World to come. And that in Scripture, there is Three Worlds spoken of, and Three Evers, and Three Times, and Three Generations: And that in the Word, every World is termed a Generation, as well as that from the Father to the Son; which now, by laying Scripture to Scripture is proved. Neither did they apprehend that the Powers and People are termed the Heavens and Earth; which in the Word are so termed far oftner then the Material Heavens and Earth are, as now by the Scripture is made plainly appear. And our Ancient Expositors being mistaken in these things, made them deny the Restitution of all things, which God by the mouth of all his Prophets and his Apostles has declared, *Acts* 3. 21. which likewise *Esdras* affirmeth; which will be fulfilled in time to come before Eternity: Until which time of Restitution, the Heavens were again to receive Christ. *At which time of return, the World will be judged in Righteousness, by him whom God hath ordained*, Acts 17. 31. And then will *Israel* be restored. For then the deliverer will turn away Ungodliness from *Jacob*, Rom. 11. 26. And St. *Paul* turns us to the day of Judgment, *Isa.* 59. 20. For the time of the Judgment of this World, and the rise of the Saints, and the last Judgment, when all the Dead are raised, are clearly proved to be Two several Judgments. Sure our Ancient Expositors were in dangerous mistakes, when by their Interpretation of the *New Testament*, they make God false and forsworn in the *Old Testament*. For therein he hath declared that *Jerusalem* shall again be Built upon her own heap, never more to be destroyed, *Jer.* 30. 18. *Jer.* 31. 40. *And likewise God hath sworn by his right hand, and by the arm of his strength, that he will no more give their Corn to be meat to their Enemies*, Isa. 62. 8. which promise will be made good to

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them at the time of the Reſtitution of all things. At which time, we ſhall be judged according to our deeds: Theſe things will be fulfilled according to the Word, in as much as it is impoſſible for God to lie, in not performing his promiſe to all according as he hath declared.

Luther declared in a Book that was Tranſlated into Engliſh by Capt. *Bell*, That when the *Turk* began to decline, the Mighty Lord would come: And the ſigns of the time, as I have already elſwhere proved by the Word, is about Forty years; the which time *Iſrael* lay in the Wilderneſs. And about Five or Six and Thirty years ago, There was, as is recited in Hiſtory over *Conſtantinople*, an Apparition ſeen in the Heavens, which was, a Woman with an open Book in her hand; which when they of the City did ſee, one of the Prieſts ſaid; Our *Mahomet* is not come at his appointed time; And that the Book which the Woman holds open in her hand, may be the Book of the Crucified *Jeſus*; which Book, we have neglected: Upon which ſaying, the people Stoned him to Death; at which time all the Lights in the place of their Worſhip went out. The Hiſtory in which this is recorded, I ſaw about Seven years ago; it was a borrowed Book, and the Perſon is Dead, with whom I ſaw it: It was a Book in Folio, and treated of ſeveral Countreys, and may be heard of. And ſince that Apparition, the *Turks* have been much oppreſt by War, and are declining; and the Mighty Lord is a coming, as by all the ſigns that he hath given us, he doth declare; which in my Books by the Word I have fully proved. And Bleſſed will they be that are found waiting for him.

Whereas ſome ſay, If the Lord were a coming, ſure we ſhould know it: And likewiſe others ſay, if it were ſo, we ſhould know it: And ſo the Third. But they examine not their own hearts, whether upon the ſigns the Lord hath given of his coming, there was then in them, an unceſſant longing for his appearance; and ſo

a more diligent ſearch into the Word, by giving themſelves up to God, in ſtudying the Scripture night and day; neglecting their outward concern: and like the importunate Widow to the Judge, ſought to God by fervent Prayer, that they might more clearly underſtand the Scriptures. And if they had ſo done, my life for theirs, they might have known a great deal more then they do; in which way, the knowledge of the Truth was attained by me. And God doth often chuſe a peculiar Perſon or Perſons to accompliſh or declare that he hath determined. And who is it, that for his ſo doing, dares ſay, What doſt thou? As for my ſelf, I have been one whom God hath Exerciſed with affliction from my Youth up, and I have alſo loved my Lord much; and therefore was not only willing to give my labour and time, but likewiſe to venture my little concern for the Publication of the knowledge of the Truth, for the Glory of God and the good of Souls. And now, if any will ſet their helping hand, that the knowledge of the Truths now diſcovered, may be made more Publick then I am capable to do; it will be very well pleaſing in the ſight of God. For altho' the Firſt Churches in the Apoſtles time *were not in darkneſs, that, that day ſhould overtake them as a thief*, 1 Theſ. 5. 4. Yet ſince the Chriſtians are fallen into darkneſs, concerning the time, by the falſe Notions that they have received; which has cauſed us to overlook the ſigns of the time, which the Lord in his Word hath declared, ſhould be before his Coming.

Upon which evident Manifeſtation of the ſigns, part of the Miniſtry in *Swedeland*, after thoſe great Earrhquakes, which the World in ſo ſhort time, never before produced the like, both for Number and Greatneſs, as then were in ſeveral places, with the other ſigns which the Lord foretold ſhould be to give notice of his Coming; therefore would have warned the People, apprehending what Dreadful conſequence it would be to them,

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that are found in darkneſs at that day, in not knowing the day of their Viſitation. But thoſe of the Clergy, that were in the wrong, prevailed, and would not ſuffer them ſo to Teach the People; and preſently ſent away to *Holland* to the Miniſters there, to continue as they were. This came over in the Monthly *Mercury*, and a *Lutheran* Miniſter told me, that the Reſolutions of the Miniſters of *Swedeland* was, That whatever they thought themſelves concerning the coming of Chriſt, they would not Teach it the People.

But the ſevere Sentence of the Lord is not only againſt them that add to his Word, that he will add to them the Plagues mentioned therein; but likewiſe thoſe that take away from the Words of the Book, wherein the Lord declares the Judgment of this World, the Reſtitution of all things, as again making all things new, with the general Invitation or common Salvation. *And the Spirit and the Bride ſay, Come. And the Lord ſaith, Whoſoever will, let him come,* Rev. 22. 17. And who is it dares ſay to the contrary? And it is thoſe that will not own theſe things, that ſhall have their *part taken out of the book of Life*, and from all the Bleſſings therein promiſed, *Rev.* 22. 19.

Whereas it is ſaid, There ſhall ariſe many falſe Chriſts, and falſe Prophets; but to tell you of the true Chriſt, and of his coming in the true way, according as he hath declared in his Word; I hope the Prince of Darkneſs will not ſo far prevail, as to make it to be eſteemed amongſt us as falſe Doctrine, which is ſo fully proved, both in the *Old* and *New Teſtament*: and likewiſe that Chriſts Righteouſneſs will be applied for our Juſtification according to his Word, in the way of our Obedience; and if this Doctrine is new to us, then have we forgotten the good old way. And it may be partly ſaid of us, as God ſaid of *Iſrael*, *My people are deſtroyed for lack of knowledge*; for there is many that would readily embrace the Truth, had they been ſo well inſtructed, as

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to underſtand Truth from Errour; but them that will not ſee, and them that cannot ſee, will both fall into the Ditch: And if we would but give our ſelves liberty to conſider, we may eaſily ſee where the Stroke will fall, when by the Goſpel the Lord tells ſuch as are under it, That one ſhall be taken out of a Bed, and the other left: And one taken out of the Field, and the other left: And one out of the City, *&c.* And this not becauſe God left them under neceſſity of Damnation, but becauſe they would not forget the eager purſuit of this preſent evil World; as in the Parable. But God by the Prophets tells *Iſrael*, That they ſhall be gathered together, and come up to *Jeruſalem* in Multitudes, upon Horſes, Chariots, Litters, Mules, and ſwift Beaſts: And then will he gather in others with them, *Iſa.* 60. 5, 6, 7. *Iſa.* 66. 20. the which I have elſwhere more largly proved. All which things ought to be weighed, and conſidered, ſince the Welfare of our Souls and Bodies lies at Stake.

The *Bereans* were termed Noble, becauſe they ſearched the Scriptures, to ſee whether thoſe things which the Apoſtles ſaid were true, *Acts* 17. 11.

But the people of this Age think it their greateſt Wiſdom, to put out their own eyes, and not to look into the Truth, rather chooſing to anſwer by Rote, according to what Notions they have received, then to examine the certainty of thoſe Truths, which the Lord according to his promiſe, hath now at the end of the time brought to Light, that knowledge thereby might be increaſed; ſo as the Viſion now by the Word, is made plain to ſpeak; and Light is thereby broke forth at Evening time, according as he hath promiſed: And if we would own the whole Truth, and break off our Sins by working Righteouſneſs, we might not only ſave our ſelves, but be an Example to many of the Chriſtians abroad. Oh! that we would conſider our ways and be wiſe, and humble our ſelves to Almighty God, and

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that we may have more love one to the other, it being the laſt Commandment the Lord left us; that by our obedient and humble walking, God may exalt us in due time: But if not, *The loftineſs of man ſhall be bowed down, and the haughtineſs of men ſhall be made low; and the Lord alone ſhall be exalted in that day*, Iſa. 2. 17.

Whereas ſome ſay, that I make Interpretation of Scripture according to what I fancy; but whoſoever ſays it, it is ſuch as ſpeak by rote themſelves, and according to their received Opinion, and not by weighing my Books and the Scriptures together; which if they did, without having a prejudice to the knowledge of the Truth, they would quickly be of another mind. For I don't pretend to Interpret Scripture, for that which God hath imployed me in, is to lay the Scriptures together; which is ſet down, here a little, and there a little, as thereby to make the Scriptures Interpret themſelves; ſo as to make the true meaning of the Word appear by them, and in leaving nothing therein to contradict what is ſaid; in which ſure way there can be no miſtake: Whil'ſt ſome others, by their own Interpretations, have made the Scriptures like a Noſe of Wax, and have turned it to what they pleaſe, in taking ſome few Scriptures that has not been rightly underſtood, to aſſert it, but leaving many other places of Scriptures to contradict them; but the Scripture is of certain rightly underſtood, when it is made to agree in a holy Harmony; and God proved to be faithful according to his Word, as well to the Jews, as to the Gentiles; which by the Interpretation of Scripture accordsng to our Ancient Expoſitors, they have turned Earth into Heaven, and ſo made the promiſe of God to *Iſrael* at the time of the Reſtitution of all things, as nothing: For they only apprehended the *New Jeruſalem* that is above; and therefore thought not of a new Earthly one, which will be built again upon her own heap, never more to be deſtroyed, when all things are reſtored